

# MONTANA TEEN DRIVER CURRICULUM 2.0 GUIDE

## Lesson Plan & Teacher Commentary

### Module 2.3 – Traffic Control and Laws – Signs and Signals

#### Lesson Objective (from *Essential Knowledge and Skills Topics*):

#### 8. Traffic Control Devices and Traffic Laws

The student is expected to:

- (a) describe the needs and purpose for traffic control devices for signs, signals, and markings;
- (b) list and describe the color and function of traffic signal lights, and signal/sign combinations;
- (c) list and explain meanings of colors and shapes of roadway signs, signals, and markings;
- (d) categorize roadway signs, signals, and markings into meaningful applications;
- (e) describe appropriate driver responses to roadway signs, signals, and markings; and
- (f) apply the traffic laws for operating a motor vehicle on public streets and highways and operate the vehicle within those laws.

#### Materials Needed:

- 1. Module 2.3 PowerPoint Presentation
- 2. Module 2.3 Fact and Work Sheets (printed out)
- 3. Module 2.3 PEPs
- 4. Module 2.3 Teacher Commentary (printed out)

#### Module 2.3 Teacher Commentary

This teacher commentary can be used in conjunction with the PowerPoint presentation for this module. The module slide images are provided to allow you to connect the materials, data, and questions with the presentation.



#### Slide 2 Traffic Sign Purpose

**Regulate** - Traffic movement and parking  
**Warn** - Potential dangers and road conditions  
**Guide** - Provide information



### Slide 3 - 4 Regulatory



### Slide 5 – 6 Warning



### Slide 7 Guide



### Slide 8 Interstate Highway Numbers

Even numbers go east-west (I-90, I-94)  
 Odd numbers go north-south (I-15)  
 Numbers begin in the west and get larger as they move east  
 Alternate routes are usually three-digit



### Slide 9 Highway Signs 93 and 40

You want to drive north.  
 Do you go straight or turn here?



### Slide 10 Speed Limits

55 mph – all other roads and highways not meeting other definitions.

Montana Speed Limits History –From December 8, 1995 to May 28, 1999 Montana's day time automobile speed limits were "reasonable and prudent", under Basic Rule MCA 61-8-303(1).  
 In 1995 Congress repealed the 1974 National Maximum Speed Law fully returning speed limit setting authority to the states.



**Slide 10 -11 Sign Shapes and Colors**

Note – What colors go with the sign shapes

Use worksheet or flip charts on wall as graphic organizer

**Shapes Have Meaning****Slide 13 – 14 Railroad Crossing Warnings**

Identify the active and passive signals at this crossing  
Crossbuck sign should be considered the same as a YIELD

Every driver must YIELD the right of way to a train

Trains have the right of way 100% of the time over emergency vehicles, cars, the police and pedestrians.

Ask student to take photos of local RR crossings

Freight trains don't travel at fixed times, and schedules for passenger trains change. Always expect a train at each highway-rail intersection.

All train tracks are private property. Never walk on tracks; it's illegal trespass and highly dangerous. By the time a locomotive engineer sees a trespasser or vehicle on the tracks it's too late.

It takes the average freight train traveling at 55 mph more than a mile—the length of 18 football fields—to stop. Trains cannot stop quickly enough to avoid a collision.

The average locomotive weighs about 400,000 pounds or 200 tons; it can weigh up to 6,000 tons. This makes the weight ratio of a car to a train proportional to that of a soda can to a car. We all know what happens to a soda can hit by a car.

<http://oli.org/education-resources/safety-tips/safety-tips-and-facts/>

**Slide 13****Slide 14****Slide 15 Line-of-Sight, Path-of-Travel Clues**

Open, Closed or Unstable?

Detour= Closed Zone – Path is blocked cannot occupy that space

Limited Sight Distance = Closed zone – LOS is blocked

Yield = Closed Zone – Path temporarily blocked

Green Arrow Lane Open = Open Zone path is not blocked

Do Not Enter = Closed Zone – path is permanently blocked

**Line-of-Sight, Path-of-Travel Clues**

**Railroad Crossing = Closed or Unstable Zone – Danger, may be a train. Tracks on raised grade can be treated as closed / slow**

**Pavement Marking Arrow and Stop = Closed Zone – path temp blocked**

**Right Lane Ends = Closed Zone – path is permanently blocked**

**Pedestrian Crossing = Unstable Zone – Danger, may be pedestrians**

**Tractors ahead = Unstable Zone – Danger, may be slow moving tractor**

### Slide 15 – 16 Work Zone Areas

Orange signs signal work zone areas  
 Proceed with extreme caution  
 Drive at the posted speed  
 Watch out for workers  
 Stay in your lane  
 Report unsafe conditions



### Slide 19- 20 Flaggers

Fines double in Work Zones  
 Remember -

- ☐ Common Sense
- ☐ Caution
- ☐ Concentration



### Slide 21- 22 Work Zone Areas - Road Closed












On May 20, 2005, mudslides from heavy rain and snow runoff damaged the Beartooth Highway at 13 sites along approximately 12 miles of roadway.

The Beartooth Highway which is part of US Highway 2012, opened in 1936. It begins at Red Lodge and winds 68 miles through the rugged and scenic Beartooth Mountains ending at the Northeast Entrance to Yellowstone National Park. At its highest point the road reaches 10,947 feet.





<p><b>Slide 23 Intersections</b>  <b>Controlled</b>  <b>Not Controlled</b></p>	
<p><b>Slide 24 Stop Sign and Lines</b></p> <p><b>STOP sign – indicates What</b>  <b>STOP line – indicates Where</b></p>	
<p><b>Slide 25 Red Traffic Signals</b>  <b>Slide 26 Yellow Traffic Signals</b>  <b>Slide 27 Green Traffic Signals</b></p>	
<p><b>Slide 28 Yield to Pedestrians</b></p> <p><b>MCA 61-8-504.</b> Operators to exercise due care. Notwithstanding <b>61-8-501</b> through <b>61-8-503</b>, an operator of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with a pedestrian or with a person propelling a human-powered vehicle or using an assistive mobility device upon a roadway, shall give warning by sounding the horn when necessary, and shall exercise proper precaution upon observing a child or an obviously confused, incapacitated, or intoxicated person upon a roadway.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Vehicles on divided highway need not stop for school bus on a different roadway</p> <p><b>MCA 61-8-351.</b> Meeting or passing school bus</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Upon overtaking from either direction a school bus that has stopped on the highway or street to receive or discharge school children, a driver of a motor vehicle:       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) shall stop the motor vehicle not less than approximately 15 feet before reaching the school bus when there is in operation on the bus a visual flashing red signal as specified in <b>61-9-402</b>; and</li> <li>(b) may not proceed until the children have entered the school bus or have alighted and reached the side of the highway or street and until the school bus ceases operation of its visual flashing red signal.</li> </ol> </li> <li>(6) The driver of a motor vehicle upon a highway with separate roadways need not stop upon meeting or passing</li> </ol>	

<p>a school bus that is on a different roadway or when upon a controlled-access highway and the school bus is stopped in a loading zone that is a part of or adjacent to the highway and where pedestrians are not permitted to cross the roadway.</p>	
<p><b>Slide 29 Pedestrian Count Down Signals</b></p>	<p><b>Pedestrian Count Down Signals</b></p> 
<p><b>Slide 30 Traffic Signals</b>  Why did the Subaru miss the red light?  Where is the legal stop?  What is the danger here?</p>	
<p><b>Slide 31 – 32 Traffic Signals</b></p>  <p>Open and closed zones  Crosswalk  Don't change lanes in the intersection  What is your Following distance?</p>	
<p><b>Slide 33 Traffic Signals – Now What?</b></p> <p>Traffic Light Tree in London with 75 sets of lights at a roundabout  Created by French sculptor Pierre Vivant in 1998</p>	
<p><b>Continue with 2.3 Roadway Markings</b></p>	

*Updated April 24, 2013*